



SPRINGFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT

"We're There, We Care"

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT



INCIDENT NUMBER: F.D. 01-12443
DATE: 10-25-01
TIME: 08:48 hours
ADDRESS: 1749 West College
OWNER: Charles Oberbeck
OCCUPANT: Charles's Standard Service Station
RESPONSE: Engine 8; Fire Marshals 5 and 2
INCIDENT CLASS: Fuel spill
PROPERTY INVOLVED: Public street right-of-way and storm sewer
INVESTIGATOR: David Cantrell

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SEWER
OPERATIONS

STORY OF THE INCIDENT: On October 25, 2001, at 08:48 hours, Engine 8, under the supervision of Captain Rusty Darnell, responded to a strong odor in the area of 1700 College. Upon arrival, Captain Darnell smelled a strong odor of a diesel fuel-like substance in the area. He located the head or beginning of the spill at 1749 College, the location of Charles's Standard Service Station. A small pool of substance was located on the sidewalk at that location, and the street gutter was stained with the substance all the way east to 1631 West College, where it entered a storm drain.

Based on his information, I responded to the scene and conducted a preliminary investigation in the case. The owner of Charles's Standard Service, identified as Charles Oberbeck, DOB, 06-24-33, arrived at the business. Oberbeck admitted that he was working on a vehicle changing a fuel filter and knocked off a one-gallon container of diesel between 14:00 and 15:00 hours on October 24. The pool and street staining of the substance was obviously greater than a one-gallon amount. Oberbeck advised he used a garden hose to wash the substance away but denied any of it ran down the street.

I then contacted the complainant, Sherrie E. Odle, 1717 West College, telephone 873-9200. Mrs. Odle reported between 15:00 and 15:30 hours on the 24th, she noticed a very strong odor outside her business causing her to close the door. She noticed the liquid was running down the street gutter. She stated it was running in "a good stream." She stated it was still was running or wet at 17:30 hours, approximately two hours later.

Both Sam and Julie Horner operate the business at 1719 West College, telephone 864-6480. The Horners reported the liquid ran in the street gutter for approximately 45 minutes to one and one-half hours. Sam stated it caused a very strong odor and burned his eyes. He believed the substance was a diesel fuel mixed with a parts-cleaning solvent. He stated it was such a nasty odor that his customers complained about it and left the business.

Springfield Fire Department

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After interviewing the witnesses, I then walked the length of the stain in the street gutter, which was approximately one and one-half feet wide, and found that it entered the storm sewer in front of Stone Lion Trading Company at 1631 West College. A strong odor of the substance was emitting from the storm drain.

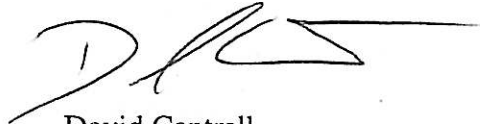
I then returned to contact Charles Oberbeck at his business where Environmental Emergency Specialist, Wendell M. Hall, with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources was on scene. I briefed Mr. Hall as to the situation and showed him the remains of the stain along the street. He then contacted Mr. Oberbeck and advised him that it was obvious that more than one gallon of the substance had been spilled and by entering the storm drain, it had entered waters of the State. Hall, at that time, advised Oberbeck he would have to contact an environmental clean-up company to have the substance cleaned up.

I did attempt to contact Public Works, specifically Randy Lyman, to report this incident for any response or follow by the Public Works Department. This was done with negative results. Mr. Lyman was not available at the time and no other Public Works personnel responded.

I did check Jordan Creek immediately south of this location to see if the substance was present. I could find no pooling or sheen on the water to indicate it had been contaminated. At that time, I cleared the scene.

Disposition in the case will be made by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources under Case Number 011025-0907-NRB by Environmental Emergency Specialist, Wendell Hall, with a copy of the report forwarded to Springfield Public Works for follow-up.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Cantrell', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David Cantrell
Fire Investigator

DC/mld

a:0112443f.inv/wp#74



CANTRELL

Dave Cantrell

Fire Investigations

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